

once I appreciate should know enough, to form some opinion of your
wants & prospects. I wish not to injure Mr. Brigham, &
would not hurt a hair of his head. But if he is well exposed -
announced & lifted, he would soon be crowned & on a too full
seat than is now on for this people. Dr. Kellogg has encouraged
for Mr. Brigham, but I think I can perceive that Mr. K. is of
of my opinion. As for dividing Mr. B. to do any good work here;
do what you can he will not work right. It would require
many sheets to write me to tell you all, and it is other my
heart & head to think it over. Forgive all the inaccuracies of
this. Yours affectionately, S. Kimball.

Framingham, Paid
Ms. Jan. 17
Rev. Amos A. Phelps,
Minister - Marlboro' Chapel,
Boston

for us, last Sabbath. This was a public that I could not
well hear, but I believe to be a few of the two excellent - Mr. W. &
Mr. Dickinson were a number of days, in this town, and made
some efforts to get subscribers to his paper. My son has
formed me that your friend, Mr. Lee, is very much liked at
N. Ipswich. I like that I have written this letter
with light on other feelings. Sure I am that you will
let this do no harm. I trust no one here, fully. I think
care to keep informed, without those of which I am able to
give. I understand about affairs. I may not live, &
in strong reasons, it seems to me, that a clear opinion of influ-

would put him needed to support measures, or rather forward religious enterprise. His chief desire seems to be to break down all Mr. Frank has done, destroy all the influence that has been built up by the division of this parish and the establishment of a society for the support of Universalist religion, and make it an easy, warm nest for a minister & his wife with a large & increasing family, and unite this church with Dr. Ide's party. But he never will glorify the church in any thing, but their own worldliness, & selfishness. His sermons have little or no effect. It has often occurred to me that if he were to read discourses written in the last century, & write his prayers, & distribute them like tracts in all the houses, the services of the Sabbath would have about the same influence, that we have enjoyed, for years past. I do not undertake to blame Mr. Brigham for this. I only state the fact. The fault may all be mine. The blame may be with the hearers.

As for Mr. Brigham, making this a Hopkinsian chh. it is not possible for him. ^{unless it be one family from Dr. Ide's chh.} There is not a Hopkinsian in this church, not a Calvinist of the Princeton school. E. M. F. W. Parkhurst, the family of E. L. Eaton, & some others are in the New Haven ground believe. Also the Abbott family. But generally, there is nothing about doctrines, here. Dr. Kellogg would have taken Rev. Dudley Phelps to have been the successor of Mr. Frank. If Mr. Brigham should in the Providence of Heaven be translated to a better place than this, it should be brought to pass that this can not be the best place for his future usefulness, and the right man should be placed at this post, it will in a short time, revolutionize this association & the conference of churches.

There are other circumstances, which I do not mention, because he can not avoid them, which are continually creating bitterness, here. I understand that something of the same kind existed at East-Randolph, his former parish, though probably they were not so aggravating there, as in Framingham.

But my dear friend, there are other things that cut me to the soul. The Unitarian here is cutting right & left. They are putting out their claws in every direction. The Unitarians are constantly spreading their influence morally & socially. Mr. Brigham, Rev. D. B. & his family, so far from resisting deleterious & pernicious influences, are absolutely, with the intention, or not, from day to day, favoring them. ^{neg. too he says, that was religion in its origin or progress} and my family have labored too much & suffered too much, not to be affected by these things. I have not undertaken to advise Mr. Brigham, since his neglect of my counsel & my questions brought upon him the mortification & upon him the ignominy of a trial upon charges of duplicity & falsehood — excepting that I gave some hints while he was preparing for his defence.

Rev. Austin Dickinson ed. of the N. York Observer, preached

173. A letter like this should be committed to the flames, or burned as the contents are so much in vain.

with him in the case, is taking a liberty which he has no right to do. I only mention all this to show a little how he stands & how he must stand before this people. Dr. Fay is I hope a good man. But no man would think that he could or should again stand before his people as a preacher of the ever acting Gospel. In his sermons, Mr. Brigham dwelt upon his having been here, three years. He was rather shy of confining himself to the last - to 1839-38. There has not been a single addition to this church during the last year. A leading member of the chh. at a chh. meeting on the 1st Sunday of this year, alluded to the fact, & said that there must be something wrong. I can state another fact, still more painful. I do not believe, that there has been a single case of conversion under his preaching, or in any society, ^{during} the three years that he has been in the ministry in Farmington. Some have been taken into the church. But they were converted before he came here, if at all, and the few others give no evidence to any man of discrimination of spiritual endowings, that they have been born again. And I have evidence, ^{satisfactory to myself} of the reverse. And what has been contributed during the last two years, has been chiefly for immediate purposes of us own. Procuring a carpet, settles, &c. &c. Mr. Brigham has wholly mistaken the genius of this society of this village. He knowing it - is reckless of our wants & is solely bent upon taking care of his own. He was, in reality, smuggled into this pulpit. Dr. Ide's clique intrigued against Mr. Trask for years - they excited the suspicions of the people, & of some individuals that there was something wrong in Mr. Trask - rash & injudicious in his course here. Now all subsequent events & developments of character prove that Mr. Trask was right. Mr. Trask sometimes differed from me. And while he did in most things, I now understand and about it, I perceive that Mr. T. was right. The clergymen of Dr. Jacob Ide's clique labored against Mr. Trask. Mr. Wilder of Concord among others, was active. Mr. Brigham is one of that class, and also Mr. Moses Thatcher of North Wrentham, and Mr. Otis Thompson of Rehoboth. Mr. Brigham was smuggled into this pulpit. Our committee for obtaining a candidate, Chas. H. W. Parkhurst, and Lawson Rice, were deceived, and the majority of the society were completely defeated - humbugged. As soon as Mr. Brigham was installed, he turned his back upon the majority of the chh. & society - Mr. & Mrs. Trask's friends, the life, the vitality of the church in this place. Rev. Mr. Folsom, told us frankly that the majority party wanted a different man from him. Mr. Brigham suffered the majority party to be disappointed. And as soon as he began his labors endeavored to shake his course, that the vitality of this chh.

(Private & Confidential.) Framingham, Jan. 10th 1840.

Lawson Kingsbury

Rev. Mr. Phelps.

Very Dear Sir:—

On the 1st Sabbath of

this year, our pastor, as usual, took occasion to review his pastoral course & mention some of the prominent events of the past year.

In the forenoon he dwelt upon the pleasures of social intercourse and its importance between minister & people. In the afternoon, he alluded particularly to his trial, complimented his society upon the zeal with which they gathered round him, the vigilance with which they watched at the door, and thanked them for paying the heavy expense incurred by his prosecution.

Mr. Brigham—doubtless unwittingly—opposed a misconstruction of the whole matter. In the first place, in my opinion, it is not true that there is much of any warm cordial intercourse between him & his people. There are a few, a very few, made up of the enemies of Mr. Trask, who are very intimate & devoted. In the next place, he was sadly mistaken in assuming that the society aided & comforted him & his family, so warmly because they approved fully of his course & because they loved him. He was wickedly & atrociously attacked & ought to have been defended to the utmost.

The society felt too that they were obliged to the contrary, whether Mr. B. was right or wrong. And now for him to assume that we fully approve of his whole course in connection with the affair and are fully satisfied with all his conduct in the matter and with all the results, is not true. He has simply pleaded that they could not prove him guilty of perjury.

The verdict of the referees amounted simply to this, that there was a doubt whether he was guilty. So state two of the referees. Mr. Barry, the Unitarian minister, soon after the trial, stated in writing, that nobody's opinion was changed by the trial, & that Mr. Brigham was unquestionably guilty.

If Mr. Brig^r had stood in all things as he could have been desired & if the church had have been what they ought ever to be in their views & feeling in regard to their pastor, he might have put the trustees at defiance, merely called a council, gone into a court of equity & conscience, and placed himself in an impregnable position. But going into a court of law, he would have the advantage of legal rules & technicalities. In a court of equity—before a council, that might have been obliged to say, that he was faulty, that some things were to be regretted, or some one of the council might have stood out against him, and in either case it would, I conclude have been fatal to his continuance in the ministry in this town & region. For him to assume now that the society fully approve, and cordially identify themselves

Do not know what can be done, and if possible, what it would be best to do, in order to make the society more united & more efficient in their views & feeling in regard to their pastor.